

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-14 are pending and are rejected.

Claims 1, and 8-14 are amended. Claims 15-20 are added.

Claim Objections

Responsive to the objections, applicant has amended claims 8, 9, and 12-14 to correct the informalities including those suggested in the Office Action. Applicant has also amended claims 10 and 11 to correct informalities. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the suggestion.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

a) Claims 1-3, 7-10, and 14

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1-3, 7-10, and 14 under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 6,163,316 ("Killian") in view of US2002/0073425 ("Arai"), applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 8 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that applicant regards as the invention, and submits that these claims are patentable over these two references for the reasons discussed below.

In particular, amended claim 1 recites a method of processing program guide information, comprising the steps of recording viewing statistics based on topics; entering user processing request information; processing program guide information based on entered user processing request information and the viewing statistics; and displaying processed result, matching the topics in the recorded viewing statistics, in a dedicated channel. Support for the underlined features can be found, for example, on FIGs. 2 and 3, and page 3, line 29-page 4, line 32.

Applicant submits that Killian and Arai, considered singly and in combination, do not disclose or suggest a method of processing program guide information including the steps of recording viewing statistics based on topics, processing program guide information based on entered user processing request information and the viewing statistics, and displaying processed result, matching the topics in the recorded viewing statistics, in a dedicated channel, as recited in amended claim 1.

Killian discloses a system that allows a viewer to create a viewer profile, so that the system can generate a preferred schedule according to the viewer profile and program listing information. See col. 2, lines 8-12, col. 9, lines 29-42, and col. 10, lines 61-66. The displayed preferred schedule may include ranking information entered by a viewer and stored in a viewer profile. See col. 11, lines 22-26, and FIGs. 4 and 5. Since a viewer profile must be entered by a viewer, Killian does not disclose or suggest the step of recording viewing statistics based on topics. As such, Killian also does not disclose or suggest the steps of processing program guide information based on entered user processing request information and the viewing statistics, and displaying processed result, matching the topics in the recorded viewing statistics, in a dedicated channel, as recited in amended claim 1.

Arai discloses a receiving apparatus capable of displaying a personalized channel collecting user's preferable or receiver's own program information in addition to common channels. See paragraph 0003. The apparatus includes a search condition input section 3 for receiving a search condition from a user, a program information search section 4 for searching program information in a program information processing section 5, selecting programs fulfilling the search condition, and producing personalized program information. See paragraphs 0107 and 0109, and FIG. 1. A program guide

display section 6 displays the program information, including the selected programs listed, for example, under "my channel." See FIG. 4, and paragraph 0109. However, like Killian, Arai does not disclose or suggest the step of recording viewing statistics based on topics. As such, Arai also does not disclose or suggest the steps of processing program guide information based on entered user processing request information and the viewing statistics, and displaying processed result, matching the topics in the recorded viewing statistics, in a dedicated channel, as recited in amended claim 1.

In light of the fact that Killian and Arai, considered singly and in combination, do not disclose or suggest a method of processing program guide information including the steps of recording viewing statistics based on topics, processing program guide information based on entered user processing request information and the viewing statistics, and displaying processed result, matching the topics in the recorded viewing statistics, in a dedicated channel, as recited in amended claim 1, applicant submits that amended claim 1, and dependent claims 2, 3, and 7, are patentable over these two references.

Amended claim 8 recites similar features as recited in amended claim 1. As such, applicant submits that amended claim 8, and dependent claims 9, 10, and 14, are patentable over the two references for similar reasons discussed above with respect to amended claim 1.

b) Claims 4 and 11

Responsive to the rejection of claims 4 and 11 as being unpatentable over Killian in view of Arai, further in view of US 6,642,939 ("Vallone") and US 6,564,378 ("Satterfield"), applicant submits that these two claims are patentable over the four

references for their respective dependence from amended claims 1 and 8 because Vallone and Satterfield fail to cure the defects of Killian and Arai as applied to amended claims 1 and 8.

Vallone discloses a multimedia schedule presentation system, such as one shown in FIG. 28, but fails to disclose or suggest a method of processing program guide information including the steps of recording viewing statistics based on topics, processing program guide information based on entered user processing request information and the viewing statistics, and displaying processed result, matching the topics in the recorded viewing statistics, in a dedicated channel, as recited in amended claim 1, and similar features as recited in amended claim 8.

Satterfield discloses a program guide system with browsing display, such as the program guide shown in FIG. 5, but fails to disclose or suggest a method of processing program guide information including the steps of recording viewing statistics based on topics, processing program guide information based on entered user processing request information and the viewing statistics, and displaying processed result, matching the topics in the recorded viewing statistics, in a dedicated channel, as recited in amended claim 1, and similar features as recited in amended claim 8.

Furthermore, both claims 4 and 11 recite that if one program in the respective time slot is highlighted, other programs in that time slot will be then displayed. Applicant respectfully disagrees that Vallone or Satterfield discloses or suggests this feature. Both references actually disclose that all programs are displayed in a time slot without having to highlight one program in that time slot.

Vallone at col. 22, lines 42-53, cited in the Office Action, actually describes how to invoke a program guide using a remote control, and the two modes of displaying the

program guide information. It does not disclose or suggest that highlighting a program causing other programs in the same slot to be displayed. The other cited portion, col. 23, 31-38, actually describes the movement of a highlight bar and the display of the program information of the highlighted program, but it does not disclose or suggest that highlighting a program in a time slot causing other programs in the same slot to be displayed.

In fact, the left column (element 2804) in FIG. 28 displays programs in all channels available in that time period 2807 without having to highlight any channel in the left column. See FIG. 28 and col. 23, lines 1-6. If a user highlights a channel in the left column and then moves the highlight bar to the right column (element 2805), the right column displays all programs available in that channel. Thus, Vallone does not disclose or suggest that if one program in a respective time slot is highlighted, other programs in that time slot will be then displayed, as recited in claims 4 and 11.

As pointed out in the Office Action, Satterfield discloses a plurality of program choices for the current time slot, so that a user can rapidly browse the listings of currently available programming. See FIG. 5, and col. 6, lines 30-52. As discussed above, Vallone has already disclosed this feature. Like Vallone, nowhere does Satterfield disclose or suggest that highlighting a program in a time slot causing other programs in the same slot to be displayed, as recited in claims 4 and 11.

In light of the fact that Vallone and Satterfield, considered singly and in combination, do not disclose or suggest that that highlighting a program in a time slot causing other programs in the same slot to be displayed, as recited in claims 4 and 11, claims 4 and 11 are patentable over Killian, Arai, Vallone, and Satterfield for this reason alone.

c) Claims 5, 6, 12, and 13

Responsive to the rejection of claims 5, 6, 12 and 13 as being unpatentable over Killian in view of Arai, further in view of US 6,133,909 ("Schein"), applicant submits that these claims are patentable over these references for their respective dependence from amended claims 1 and 8 because Schein fails to cure the defects of Killian and Arai as applied to amended claims 1 and 8.

Schein discloses a method for searching a guide using program characteristics, such as one shown in FIG. 8, but fails to disclose or suggest a method of processing program guide information including the steps of recording viewing statistics based on topics, processing program guide information based on entered user processing request information and the viewing statistics, and displaying processed result, matching the topics in the recorded viewing statistics, in a dedicated channel, as recited in amended claim 1, and similar features as recited in amended claim 8.

New Claims

Applicant has added claims 15-20. Support for claims 15, 16, 18, and 19 can be found, for example, on page 3, lines 30-32. Support for claims 17 and 20 can be found, for example, on FIG. 8.

Applicant submits that claims 15-17 and 18-20 are patentable over the cited references for their respective dependence from amended claims 8 and 1.

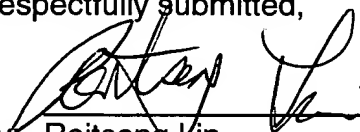
Furthermore, Killian, Arai, Vallone, Satterfield, and Schein, considered singly and in combination, do not disclose or suggest that a statistic of a topic is the number of times the topic has been viewed, as recited in claims 15, 16, 18, and 19. Thus, these four claims are patentable over the five references for this reason alone.

These five references also do not disclose or suggest that a dedicated personalized channel is always displayed at a predefined position in the program guide, as recited in claims 17 and 20. As such, claims 17 and 20 are patentable over the five references, for this reason alone.

Having fully addressed the Examiner's objections and rejections it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's attorney at (609) 734-6813, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

No fee is believed due. However, if a fee is due, please charge the fee to Deposit Account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,


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I hereby certify that this amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to ~~Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment~~, Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on:

4-30-04
Date

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